

Remarks/Argument

This paper is submitted responsive to the office action mailed September 28, 2005 and following a telephone interview held with the Examiner on December 1, 2005. Reconsideration of the application in light of the accompanying remarks and amendments is respectfully requested.

In the aforesaid action, the Examiner allowed claims 2, 4 and 10. During the aforesaid interview, agreement was reached as to amendments to independent claim 1 which would appear to address the current art rejection. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 13 and 14, and further to specify that the shoulder portions extend radially outwardly over the loaded and unloaded sides. It is submitted that claim 1 is now clearly allowable over the art of record.

Since the subject matter of claims 13 and 14 is now in independent claim 1, the dependency of claims 13 and 14 has been changed to allowed claim 4.

Claim 8 has also been amended in similar manner to claim 1 and is believed allowable based upon the discussions held during the aforesaid telephone interview. If the Examiner is of the opinion that claim 8 is not allowable as amended, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned to discuss and resolve same.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

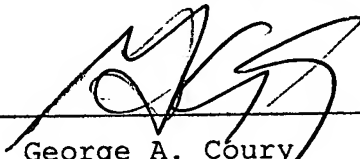
Appl. No. 10/731,323  
Amdt. Dated Dec. 28, 2005  
Reply to Office action of Sept. 28, 2005

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

It is believed that no fee is due in connection with this response. If any fee is due, please charge same to deposit account no. 02-0184.

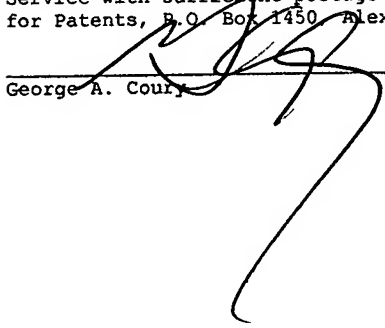
Respectfully submitted,

By

  
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December 28, 2005

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on December 28, 2005.

  
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George A. Coury